

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-03

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MANILA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 277326

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRD, OVIP, RP

SUBJECT: GSP AND PRESIDENT'S VISIT

REF: MANILA 15941

1. DEPARTMENT SHARES YOUR CONCERN REGARDING IMPORTANCE OF GSP LIST AND ADVERSE EFFECTS SHOULD FINAL APPROVED LIST APPEAR TO GIVE LESS OPPORTUNITIES TO PHILIPPINES OR TO ANY OTHER COUNTRY OF PARTICULAR IMPORTANCE TO US THAN THEY MIGHT HAVE HOPED. THIS ISSUE HAS BEEN BROUGHT TO ATTENTION OF SECRETARY AND PURSUED EXTENSIVELY AT TWO CABINET-LEVEL MEETINGS BY DEPUTY SECRETARY INGERSOLL WHO PARTICULARLY STRESSED OUR CONCERN WITH PLYWOOD PROBLEM AND OUR SPECIAL
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CONCERNS WITH PHILIPPINES. HOWEVER, UNFORTUNATLY SOME

MAJOR POTENTIAL GSP ITEMS OF PARTICULAR INTEREST TO PHILIPPINES AND SEVERAL OTHER KEY COUNTRIES ARE AMONG THOSE WHICH ARE IMPORT SENSITIVE, ESPECIALLY IN THE CURRENT PERIOD OF RECESSION AND HIGH DOMESTIC UNEMPLOYMENT, AND THEREFORE HAVE NOT BEEN RECOMMENDED FOR INCLUSION IN THE FINAL PRODUCT LIST.

2. REGARDLESS WHICH SPECIFIC ITEMS EVENTUALLY APPROVED FOR GSP AND THEIR IMPORTANCE FOR PARTICULAR COUNTRY, IT SHOULD BE STRESSED THAT GSP OFFERS ALL BENEFICIARIES OPPORTUNITIES TO INCREASE AND DIVERSIFY EXPORTS AMONG BROAD RANGE OF ITEMS APPROVED FOR GSP AND NOT EXCEPTED FOR INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES UNDER COMPETITIVE NEED FORMULA.

3. AT SUCH TIME AS LIST IS ANNOUNCED APPROPRIATE GUIDANCE WILL BE SENT ALL POSTS. WITH RESPECT PARTICULAR ITEMS OF INTEREST TO GOP, WE ARE HOPEFUL THAT PHILIPPINE INTEREST CAN IN LARGE PART BE ACCOMMODATED IN BILATERAL MFN NEGOTIATIONS AND/OR IN MTN. KISSINGER

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